

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4

NND 968039  
By 57113w Date 3/24/98



INDICATE:  
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☐ CHARGE TO

~~SECRET~~  
Classification 7 APR 71

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION: AmCONSUL DACCA  
INFO: AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMCONSUL LAHORE

STATE 058039

~~MODIS~~

REF: Dacca's 1138

IMMEDIATE

MODIS REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed;  
transferred to O/FADRC  
Cat. E - Transferred to O/FADRC  
with additional access  
controlled by S/S  
Cat. C - Caption and custody  
retained by S/S

Reviewed by: Ambassador W. Witman, II  
Date: 6/10 1975

1. Appreciate fully depth of feeling expressed by ~~you~~  
and your associates in REFTEL. As we have reviewed ~~your~~ their  
statement, ~~telegrams~~ it makes two principal points on which Department  
wishes to comment: (a) that we have failed to denounce  
the actions taken by the Pakistan Government in East Pakistan  
which, in ~~your~~ <sup>their</sup> judgment, includes suppression of democracy,  
atrocities, etc., while placating West Pak dominated  
government; and (b) that our government has failed to  
take forceful measures to protect its citizens.

2. In connection with point (a) above, we have been  
restrained in our public utterances for several reasons:

(1) We have been particularly mindful that the cooperation of  
safety of Americans in both East and West Pakistan and  
the GOP is necessary in order to assure orderly and safe

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NEA:JJSisco:mtb

DRAFTING DATE

4/6/71

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29588

APPROVED BY:

THE SECRETARY

CLEARANCES:

S/S - Mr. Elliot

USIA - Mr. Loomis

The Under Secretary

J - Ambassador Johnson

O - Mr. Macomber

S/PRS - Mr. McCloskey

AID - Mr. Williams

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From East Pakistan; situation in East Pakistan  
evacuation of Americans; (2) We view ~~this~~ as primarily an  
internal matter of the Pakistan Government and most other  
governments have same view; and (3) Reports have been con-  
media  
flicting: ~~Media~~ in US has been carrying stories of atrocities  
on both sides although we do not, of course, equate the two.  
However, we have not been silent. Over the past two weeks  
following points made by the Department's spokesman:

A. On the first day following reports of developments  
in East Pakistan (March 26), Department spokesman said:  
QUOTE We are watching developments closely, with concern.  
UNQUOTE. Department spokesman revealed QUOTE American  
personnel who reached Consul General this morning have  
reported the presence of Army troops throughout the city  
and extensive firing, including, I understand, the use of  
tanks...I know that Ambassador Farland called at the MFA  
in West Pakistan this morning and made a strong request  
that the GOP insure all possible protection for Americans  
in the East. UNQUOTE.

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B. On March 30, based on Dacca's reports, Department spokesman stated situation remained quiet in Dacca and that we did not have reliable information re elsewhere in East Pakistan. We also made clear in response to inquiries that while military supply agreement does not prohibit use of weapons supplied for internal security purposes, no weapons have been supplied to Pakistan since 1965 and none have gone as result of one-time exception decision.

C. On March 31 Department spokesman confirmed Consul General Dacca's recommendation on evacuation. He also made statement critical of Pakistan Government saying: QUOTE We felt that legitimate news gathering functions of American journalists had been unduly restricted. UNQUOTE. Based on continuing conflicting reports, he made no explicit comment on further developments stressing our responsibility at this point is for safety of Americans who are there.

D. On April 2 Department spokesman made full-blown

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statement stressing our concern over developments and giving explicit support to SYG humanitarian initiative. He said:

1. QUOTE. We are naturally concerned at the reported loss of life, damage and hardship suffered by the people of Pakistan. What is impossible for us to establish at this time is any reliable set of facts regarding the recent events in the area or their foreseeable consequences.

2. QUOTE. Now, in this respect we have noted the statement yesterday by the UN Secretary General and in this connection we would, of course, give sympathetic consideration to any humanitarian efforts to assist that might be requested by the Government of Pakistan in line with the Secretary General's statement. UNQUOTE.

3. He also said the following re use of American arms: QUOTE...It is a matter of concern to the USG when its weapons are used. UNQUOTE.

E. On April 5 the Department spokesman reiterated

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April 2 statement and added: QUOTE It is our hope that peaceful conditions can be reestablished. UNQUOTE.

3. We will keep under ~~a~~ active review question of further public statements in light of any further reports more clearly establishing facts and <sup>[when]</sup> ~~a~~ the withdrawal of Americans is further along.

4. The second charge is far more serious. <sup>Their statement</sup> ~~Your message~~ states that our government has failed to take forceful measures to protect its citizens. We would appreciate supporting evidence to this effect; we do not have such evidence. On March 30, you recommended and Ambassador Farland concurred that you be given authority to evacuate Americans. While reaffirming your discretionary authority, Department raised question as to whether thinning out could be accomplished by withdrawing non-official Americans in first instance and dependents of officials. We also asked for your views re retention satisfactory official

J

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presence in Dacca and civilian or military aircraft.

Upon receipt your firm recommendation for military airlift

(DACCA 1027), Department approved recommendation three

hours later, transmitting approval at 3:51 AM EST (STATE 54549/ April 1)

starting preparations for — 7 airlift. This matter

subsequently taken up by Ambassador Farland with GOP

which declined approve US military airlift and offered

alternative means now in train. Department concurred in

Ambassador Farland's recommendation that we proceed on

the basis of the means insisted upon by the Paks. Dacca

informed Department it would proceed on basis GOP plan

(DACCA 1098). Thinning out process is proceeding in

orderly manner, and we are not aware of any confirmed reports

of any ~~XXX~~ Americans (other than young man you reported

prior to airlift) either being injured or killed.

5. As to the longer range implications of current

developments, Task Force has this matter under active

review and views of Amembassy Islamabad, New Delhi

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and ConGen Dacca have been requested by the Department. We welcome your colleagues' policy proposals and will ~~intention to provide us with your~~ of course expect your own comments on them. ~~recommendations~~ Obviously, if USG concludes, as your message does, that the most likely outcome of present civil war is a Bengali victory and consequent establishment of an independent Bangla Desh then this has implications ~~WXX~~ which we will have to take into account in our policy review.

6. We welcome expression of strongly held views as well as recommendations on policy. We are sure, however, that you wish these be forwarded privately and directly to principal ~~XX~~ officers, while at the same time not receiving such wide-spread dissemination as to increase likelihood of leak to press. Hence this message is NODIS and future messages in this series should be NODIS. However, we assume you will share this message with your colleagues.

END

ROGERS

GP-3

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